MONTEREY NEWS

January 2006
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The Town

Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes told the Select Board that 13.8 inches of snow fell on Friday, December 9, providing his highway crew with a great deal of work. The impact of the snowfall reminded the Select Board that in some instances dirt roads may need to be closed to the public during the winter, although in a further discussion they agreed that Fairview could not be closed.

Forbes reported that the 2 inches of rain that fell in two hours during the night of November 30 washed out the culvert on Route 23 near River Road and damaged a number of roads, including Beartown Mountain and Fairview. Forbes noted that Rawson Brook flooded onto New Marlborough Road near the bridge, leading Select Board member Michael Storch to remind the board to ask Dick Tryon, owner of the property where logs are congesting Rawson Brook, when he anticipates removing them.

Building Commissioner Don Torrico will provide Forbes with a list of corrections to Town Hall that must be made before a certificate of occupancy can be issued. A licensed construction supervisor is needed for this job.

Building Commissioner

Town Secretary Melissa Noe has begun doing clerical work for Torrico to help reduce the paperwork overload generated by the building commissioner's oversight.

Joe Baker

On December 12, the Select Board (Michael Storch, l., Jon Sylbert, r., next to Chair Michèle Miller) signed the lease of the Wilson McLaughlin House to the nonprofit Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House (represented by President Lew Scheffey, center, and Treasurer Shirley Olds, between Storch and Scheffey) while it is being restored and converted to a community center. Appropriately, they are standing in front of a painting by Edith Wilson.

Torrico reported on an application for a new dwelling unit at the east end of Monterey, which would be the second dwelling unit on the lot. The issue has been before the Board of Health.

When Torrico requested that Monterey draft a new zoning map delineating the different zones, he was told that such a map, based on the assesssors' maps, would come from the Planning Board. Torrico also reported to the Select Board that the kindergarten school does not have the required annual certificate of inspection.

The Select Board received a letter from Scott Jensen praising Torrico's work and expressing his belief that Torrico is not being paid adequately for the hours required to do his job.

Police Department

Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus reported that an abandoned 911 call at Gould Farm was the result of a dialing error. While at Gould Farm investigating the call, he served a summons for a witness. The police checked out a tree that had fallen on a house on Beartown Mountain Road, and helped a motorist with a flat tire on Curtis and Main Roads. A disabled motor vehicle was towed from Main Road.

The victim of a dog bite on Blue Hill Road on December 11 did not wish to file a complaint, but legally a complaint must be filed, with an accompanying in-house quarantine of the dog. Backhaus will deliver the report to the Board of Health.

Backhaus clarified the differences between the training that NIMS (National Incident Management System) requires of the Select Board and that required of police and fire departments.

The Select Board spent some time evaluating the emergency response on the evening of December 17 when Hupi Road resident Annabel Edelman totaled her car on Tyringham Road.

Wilson McLaughlin House

Eight members of the Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House attended the December 12th Select Board meeting to formally sign the lease from the Town of Monterey to FWMH at $1 per year. Select Board Chair Michèle Miller reiterated the importance of the restoration of the house so that Monterey can retain Edith Wilson's bequest of the 28.8-acre property in the center of town. The solemnity of the occasion was marked by photographs of the committee and the Select Board. (See p. 1 and related article on p. 6.)

During the informal ceremony, Storch commended the committee for the time and care they have given to the project "against incredible odds." As committee member Gige O'Connell said in response, "We've only just begun to fight!"

Committee member Joe Baker said that Town Counsel Jerry Scully specified that any work done on the house beyond Phase One must have written permission from both the town and the committee.

Baker requested an official address list so the committee can send residents a brochure on the committee's plans for the project. Committee member Susan Sellew asked if "I Love Monterey Day" could be held in conjunction with a town-wide tag sale to raise money for and awareness of the reconstruction of the house. The committee will make a formal proposal for the date to the Select Board.

Town Hall

On Monday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m. the Select Board's monthly evening meeting will concentrate on matters concerning affordable housing: the necessity for its provision, community concerns, and problem solving. The Education Committee will meet briefly at the beginning.

Miller announced that Kathy Wasiuk agreed to serve on the Town Report Committee. The Select Board will send notices to those who need to furnish information for the town report. Miller said the Select Board hopes to have substantial reports, full of necessary details, by January 15.

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BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

This year's Town Report will be dedicated to Henry Makuc, so those with photographs or reminiscences of him should send them to Town Hall.

Monday, January 30, is the public hearing for the change in the Tree Warden's position from elected to appointed.

The informational session for the annual town meeting has been set for April 28. The town meeting will be Saturday, May 6, and in a change from long-established procedure, voting for public officials will occur on a separate date, Saturday, May 13.

After learning that a member of a town board had contacted Town Counsel Jerry Scully, the Select Board issued a reminder of the town policy prohibiting individual board members to approach Town Counsel on their own, without a prior discussion with the chairman of the board in question.

The Select Board appointed Dean and Fran Amidon to Monterey's Council on Aging.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee members Debra Mielke and Dan Moriarty reported that the Audit Committee organized by Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier met to begin the preparation of an RFP for an audit. The Finance Committee would like to see policy and internal procedure audits in addition to the usual fiscal audit. Gauthier, Mielke, Michael Storch, and Len Simon sit on the Audit Committee.

At their first meeting, the Audit Committee's decided that the budget for the audit would be $14,500. The audit typically takes place every three years, although Monterey skipped a year so it will have been four years in between audits.

Although Monterey needs to borrow $284,000 to pay for damages incurred during the historic October rainstorm, most of that money will be repaid by FEMA and MEMA. But since the monies are unfunded, a special town meeting is called for Friday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse. The two other issues to be brought up at the special town meeting are the additional expenses for the assessors, and an already-made repair to an old fire truck engine.

Gauthier reiterated that the purpose of the special town meeting is to approve use of free cash, not to raise money. The warrant for this meeting will be posted by January 13, and the informational meeting will be held Friday, January 20, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. >

Michael Storch

The Puntin family and Lisa Smyle (r, with son Sean) all set for hayride at the Christmas party on Dec. 11, sponsored by the Coffee Club and Park Commissiion.

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Moriarty was told that Monterey could receive a favored rate of interest on the borrowed funds. Gauthier reiterated that Monterey may not necessarily need to borrow the funds, but permission must be granted by the citizens for the possibility of borrowing. A two-thirds majority vote is necessary for approval of loans.

Moriarty pressed the Select Board on appointing a Capital Expense Planning Committee. Moriarty and Mielke reiterated their belief that such a committee should not include people from departments whose equipment is being considered, although clearly they should be resources for a citizen committee. Gauthier said that this committee should not deal in dollar figures but concentrate on the perceived needs of the departments. She also said that people who use the equipment should serve on the committee. Miller believes Forbes should be appointed to the committee.

Discussion of an additional person to help plow snow continues. Miller asked Moriarty to make a written proposal to the Select Board with a solution to the perceived problem.

All budget requests must be turned into the Finance Committee by February 14. The budget will be the topic at the February 27th night session of the Select Board and the Finance Committee.

Fire Company

Fire Chief Ray Tryon reported that the first NIMS (National Incident Management System) training session will be a four-hour meeting at the firehouse on January 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m. No date has been set for the second session, which runs for fourteen hours, but it must be held before September or the town will be unable to get federal grants.

Planning Board

After granting the Planning Board $6,500 to hire consultant Joel Russell in 2004 to help them codify zoning law changes, the Select Board, having seen no progress toward a master plan, is inquiring about the priorities of the Planning Board and its estimate of when Monterey can expect to have such a master plan in place. Questions of a potential conflict of interest for a member of the Planning Board were raised.

Planning Board Chair Maggie Leonard raised the question of how sign permits are granted, noting that both her board and the Building Commissioner had authority in that venue.

This and That

Town Treasurer Pat Mielke and insurance salesman Michael Garrold of MIIA addressed the Select Board about town insurance. The Select Board has been requesting discounts on premiums, which MIIA will grant only if Monterey gives them a two-year contract, which the Select Board has deemed unacceptable.

From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2006 Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills for the third quarter will be mailed the last week of December and are due February 1, 2006. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector (413-644-0299, ext 17). The Board of Assessors has not yet completed the revaluation process mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Therefore this third quarter bill is another preliminary bill based on last year's assessment and tax rates. The fourth quarter bill containing the actual tax amount for fiscal year 2006 will be mailed in late March and will be due on May 1, 2006.

— Mari Enoch, Tax Collector

Select Board member Jon Sylbert suggested a number of actions that Monterey can take to maximize the town's potential for state grants under the Commonwealth Capital Funds. Examples include adopting a Community Preservation Act, creating walking and biking lanes and trails, providing a sidewalk to the school, zoning for cluster development for affordable housing, approving a stewardship plan for a municipal forest, enacting a right-to-farm bylaw, and enacting scenic road bylaws.

— Laurily K. Epstein

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Ice Rink Opens

The Monterey Park Commission is delighted to announce that, once again, we have rented the Fire Department pavilion for use as the Town Of Monterey Ice Rink.

On the weekend of November 26, Darry Jassen, Cory Jassen, Kerry Jassen, Rick Andrus, Brian Puntin, Ellen Ferris, Galen Ferris, Steve Graves, Jim Edelman, Ken Gleason, and Valeire Zantay put up the rink and, thanks to the cold temperatures since then, ice is being made diligently by Darryl Jassen and Rick Andrus. Skate away and be sure to look for the signs outside the pavilion to make sure the ice is suitable for skating.

The ice skates that are located on the shelves at the rink are there to borrow for the day, weekend, or season. They may need sharpening, but there are some fabulous skates there!

Enjoy!

Skating Teacher wanted

The Monterey Park Commission is seeking an ice skating teacher for late January and February. Anyone interested is asked to please call Chandler Crawford at 528-3035.

TOWN OF MONTEREY

Skating Rink Hours / Winter 2006

Firehouse Pavilion

MONDAY–FRIDAY

Dawn to 3:00 p.m.	Public Skating
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.	Kids/Family Hockey Time
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Public Skating (may be closed for ice-making at this time; also, skaters may be asked to leave the ice)
7:00 p.m. on,	Hockey
except Wednesday	Public Skating

SATURDAY

9 a.m. to12:30 p.m.	Kids / Family Hockey
noon to 3:00 p.m.	Public Skating
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.	Kids/Family Hockey
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	CLOSED
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Saturday Night Public Skating Party

SUNDAY

9 am - noon	Pickup Hockey
Noon to 3:00 p.m.	Public Skating
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.	Kids/Family Hockey
after 5 p.m.	CLOSED for major icemaking repair

Skating rink hours dawn–9 p.m.; if finishing a game after 9 p.m., please be considerate of your neighbors and keep it quiet.

Monterey Park Commissioners: Leroy Thorpe, 528-2164; Jim Edelman, 528-0006; David Crane, 644-9151; Valerie Zantay; Chandler Crawford, 528-6611

Ice Maintenance: Darryl Jassen, 528-1495; Rick Andrus, 528-1723

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Brush Burning Season Opens

Each year, the state allows some Massachusetts towns, including Monterey, to conduct open burning. It is important to remember that when burning, you are subject to certain requirements and responsibilities issued and enforced by the State Fire Marshals Office, DEP, and your local Fire Department. These guidelines include the following:

- Permits can be obtained from January 15 to April 30.
- You must obtain a permit for open burning from the Monterey Fire Department by calling **528-1734.**
- Residents must call on the day they will be burning; no permits are issued ahead of time. The permit is good for one day only.
- Burning hours start at 10 a.m. and all fires must be out by 4 p.m.
- Burning materials will be confined to brush only. **All other materials are prohibited.**
- Burning piles will be kept small and controllable
- No burning within 75 ft. of a building.
- Have a method of extinguishment and tools available.
- Never leave the fire unattended for any reason.
- Permits are issued weather permitting. Burning is not allowed every day.
- Don't wait until the end of April; you will be disappointed if you wait till the last minute.
- Burning season will not be extended.

Make sure you call for a permit at 528-1734 and leave your name, the address of where you are burning, and a phone number.

Community Center: Lots of Good News

The Wilson McLaughlin House Committee has been reaping the harvest after months and months of laborious meetings.

The Monterey Select Board has officially leased the Wilson McLaughlin house to the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, Inc., for five years. This legality allows the project to move forward with the raising of tax-deductible private funds to be used for the reworking of the house and creation of the Monterey Community Center. The plan is to turn the building back over to the town once the construction has been completed.

We have received early seed money from the following:

- We applied for and received a $1000 grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.
- At a December meeting of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust, the board voted to donate $1,000 to the project, affirming that the land preservation aspect of this project is of major importance to Monterey. Edith Wilson's will is very clear about her intention: if her former house is maintained and used for municipal purposes, then the house and surrounding land at the corner of Route 23 and New Marlboro Road can be retained by the town.

We urge you all to visit our web site, www.ccmonterey.org, and learn more about the Monterey Community Center. Thoughtfully designed by committee member Joe Baker, the site will fill you in on the history and details of this project.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT !

Sunday January l5, 6–8pm

Come in out of the cold and play!
Board Games, Card Games . . .
We'll have some or bring your own and find game partners!
Refreshments will be served.

Monterey Meetinghouse Basement

Sponsored by the Monterey Park Commission

A recent addition to the site offers you the opportunity to sign up to be on our e-mail list. Please take advantage of this. As we gather steam, we will keep everyone up to date with the latest developments.

— Susan Sellew

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Colonial Women Topic of January Community Potluck

Martha Dailey, Director of the Bidwell House Museum, will speak at the community potluck on January 11th on the topic "Resourcefulness of Mid-Eighteenth Century Women of the Berkshires." Martha comes to us with a rich background. She has taught for 35 years on the secondary and college level and has a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of New Mexico. Her special interest has been nineteenth-century biography and Native American studies, and now, since she began working at the Bidwell House in April, she is enjoying learning more about the eighteenth-century colonial era. The dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., and everyone is welcome.

Other speakers scheduled to speak at the potlucks this year include:

February 8: MaryKate Jordan on "Why Sedna Matters";

March 8: Kathie Frome on her hurricane relief work in Houston and our local emergency systems;

April 12: to be announced;

May 10: Don Victor with a photo show of Monterey potlucks through the years.

On December 15th those who attended the potluck were treated to a wonderful talk and inspirational photo show by Eileen Lawlor. Many thanks to Eileen for sharing her talent with us and to Bill and Pam Johnson for their loan of the PowerPoint equipment. And as always, we are grateful to the members of the church for making their space available to the community each month for the dinners and many other town activities. And good news—the podium is back! Many, many thanks to whoever returned it. (Or, if someone donated a new one that looks like the old one, we are grateful.)

The dinners are held in the community room at the Monterey Meetinghouse on the second Wednesday of the month from November through May. Please bring something to share for the meal, a serving utensil, and a place setting for yourself. During these winter months snow and ice may be a problem, so be sure to check the phone message at the church (528-5850) for weather cancellations.

Curious Cat, *pastel by Gregory Maichack*

Cultural Council Events

The Cultural Council has completed the 2006 awards process with full or partial funding for 15 of the 28 applications received. Four awards went to school events and four to library events.

The 2006 Cultural Council season is taking shape, so save the dates below and watch the *Monterey News* for more about these upcoming events:

Saturday, Jan. 21: Explorer Paul Buck recounts his experiences, 7:30 p.m., Meetinghouse. Free. See article p. 10.

Friday, February 17: Gregory Maichack pastel workshop, 7-9:00 p.m. in Meetinghouse basement. Free.

Friday, March 10: Hootenanny, 7:00 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Free. Bring instruments and friends to join voices for this event, back by popular demand.

Saturday, April 8: Thunder Bay Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Gamelan music, dance, masks, and theatrical traditions of Bali. Free.

Gregory Maichack Offers Pastel Workshop Feb. 17

The Monterey Cultural Council will sponsor a free workshop on February 17 from 7:00–9:00 p.m., presented by award-winning pastelist, Gregory Maichack. The workshop will be a combination of instruction, demonstration, and hands-on work by participants. Maichack, who lives in Holyoke, brings a wealth of experience in working with pastels and in pastel instruction, as well as professional-grade pastels and paper that he provides for participants to use during the workshop. He has won several national prizes at major juried shows, exhibited in prominent galleries throughout the U.S., and was recently commissioned to do a pastel portrait of Westfield State College president Woodward. He is a faculty member at Springfield Fine Arts Museum School, where he teaches pastel and portraiture.

The workshop will be held in the basement of the Monterey Meetinghouse. It is open to teens and adults from beginners to advanced artists. The instructor will demonstrate the technique from beginning to end, and those attending will have the opportunity to take home their artwork created in the class. The event is free, but pre-registration is required, as space is limited. Call Joe Baker at 528-9385 to register.

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Public Meeting of Monterey Agriculture Commission

After a unanimous vote at the 2005 annual town meeting to establish a local Agricultural Commission, the Select Board appointed Laurily Epstein, Carrie Petrik, and Brian Puntin as original members. The three then met to discuss possible functions for the commission and gather information about agricultural enterprises in Monterey.

Laurily Epstein is president of the board of trustees of Berkshire Grown, a nonprofit that supports local food and farms. Carrie Petrik, who came to the Berkshires to attend Simon's Rock, has been working as a farmer and landscaper for several years, with the hope of becoming a dairy farmer. She has worked for Monterey farmers Ellen Pearson and Susan Sellew. Brian Puntin, a Berkshire native, is owner of Berkshire Icelandics at Roberts Woods Farm on Art School Road.

The first action the commission plans to undertake is passage of a right-to-farm law for Monterey. Even though the state has such a law, towns all over Massachusetts are adopting their own laws to reinforce the idea that the town is hospitable to agriculture. Part of the educational component of a right-to-farm law is notifying new property owners about the importance of agriculture to the town to insure that, for example, someone who buys a house in February does not come unhinged during the summer when he might first experience smells, sounds, and sights associated with farming. (Think manure, roosters, and slow-moving tractors on the road.) After a town adopts its own right-to-farm law, buyers in real estate transactions must sign a form acknowledging that they understand the importance of agriculture to the town.

Another more mercenary rationale for local right-to-farm laws is that towns that pass them get points toward Commonwealth Capital grants. Look for a right-to-farm proposal on the 2006 town warrant, and please support it.

A local agricultural commission may embark on any number of activities. It might act as the mediator when issues arise between homeowners and farmers (again, think smell, sound, and sight). It could act as a liaison between farmers and town boards and committees. It could prepare and distribute a farm map for residents and visitors. It might oversee "farmer appreciation" activities, such as potluck dinners, organized farm visits, or public art about farm life. In short, local agricultural commissions are established to help protect farmland and natural resources in as broad or narrow a way as the town prefers.

Epstein, Petrik, and Puntin hope that farmers and interested citizens will join them either on the commission itself or as educated resources. So please attend an open public meeting sponsored by the Agricultural Commission on Tuesday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, to discuss issues of agricultural interest.

Wind Power Forum Jan. 21

Alan Nogee, director of the Clean Energy Program of the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Eleanor Tillinghast, president of Green Berkshires, will present their views for and against wind power on Saturday, January 21, at 1:00 p.m. at the Monterey Meetinghouse. The program, with a question-and-answer period after the two speakers' presentations, is sponsored by the Monterey Preservation Land Trust (MPLT).

The Massachusetts legislature mandated that by the end of 2009, 4 percent of the state's electricity must come from new construction of renewable energy resources, primarily wind, solar, and biomass. By 2014, 9 percent of the Bay State's energy must come from renewable resources.

Officials have estimated that wind power will provide a substantial portion of future renewable energy Because 62 of the 65 identifiable inland sites with sufficient wind are in Berkshire County, the MPLT believes it is important to learn about the costs and benefits of wind power.

Where and how to situate wind turbines in a scenic community have become controversial issues among environmentalists, conservationists, and knowledgeable citizens who are eager for alternatives to traditional energy sources. Tillinghast and Nogee, both experts on wind energy, are ideally suited to inform the public on both sides of this critical issue.

Tillinghast serves on town boards in Mt. Washington, and represents her town

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Route 23 Monterey

Monterey Knitting Circle Continues!

The next meeting of the knitting circle will be held on Tuesday, January 10, at 6:00 p.m. We will meet in the Monterey General Store, which will be closed for business but open for creativity. We had a successful first meeting in December, and would like to thank Kenn Basler for opening up the store to us, as well as Glynis for her unending calm and patience with even the most reluctant learner.

We hope to continue opening up the world of knitting to beginning knitters as well as offering a creative camaraderie for experienced knitters. Please join us.

as an alternative delegate on the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. She is vice-chair of the Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters, and a member of the Massachusetts chapter board of the Conservation Land Foundation.

Nogee, with more than twenty years' experience as an energy analyst and advocate, has specialized in renewable energy solutions. He has testified on environmental issues and electrical restructuring before state legislatures throughout the Northeast.

This meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Kugel Cookoff Benefit for Bidwell House

The Matzo Brei Mavens are at it again. This year, on Sunday, February 19th, noon, at Roberts Woods Farm, 45 Art School Road, the same intrepid trio of local chefs will tackle Jewish pasta, in the form of a kugel cookoff.

So tell me, what's a kugel, you ask? Pronounced koo-gel or ki-gel, depending on where you come from, "kugel" is Yiddish for "pudding." Sometimes called lokshin kugel—"lokshin" is Yiddish for "noodle"—the main ingredient is egg noodles. For centuries kugel has been a traditional dish served on Sabbath and holidays.

Kugel, a quintessential comfort food, boasts a vast and varied medley of recipes. For this kugel cookoff, each chef will interpret this dish in its traditional, holiday style—or its savory, seasoned style—or its sweet, sassy version . . . or all three. Guests will enjoy the offerings and vote for their favorites. Eat! Eat! Eat!

All proceeds will benefit the summer intern program at the Bidwell House Museum. Cost is $40 for brunch and champagne cocktails. Attendance is limited, so reserve early. Reservations accepted now by sending $40 to BHM, P.O. Box 537, Monterey, MA 01245 or call 413-528-6888.

Green Corner
Money in a Bottle!

You bring your recycling to the transfer station, or your hauler does. There your bottles and cans get mixed with your neighbors' cans and bottles. Newspapers, magazines, junk mail, and office paper from all over town are combined. Then these recyclables are transported to Springfield, where they are sorted and sold to industries to be remanufactured into useful items. Currently, the markets for recyclables are going full force. Demand for paper, glass, and aluminum is strong.

"Okay," you say, "show *me* the money!" In April 2005, your town signed a new contract with the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (known as the MRF). For every ton of recyclables that goes to the recycling facility in Springfield, your town receives at least $15.63. If the markets are strong, towns get a per-ton bonus payment.

Recycling has always made "sense." The more you recycle now, the more "cents" (in this case dollars) it brings to town. For more information, contact James at CET, 413-445-4556, ext 25.

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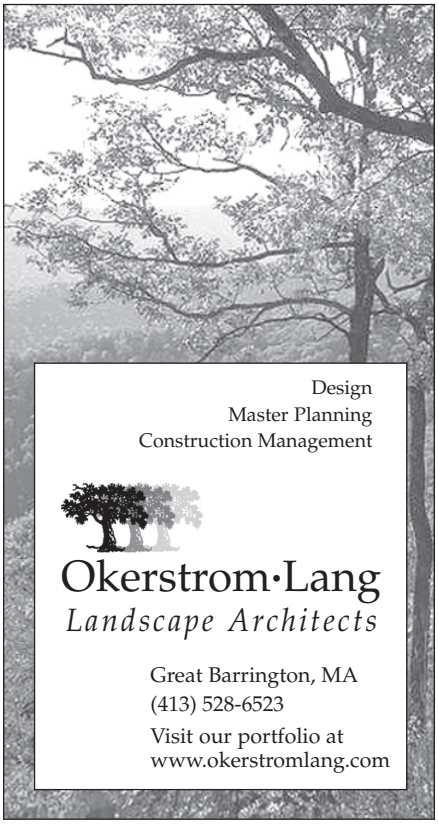


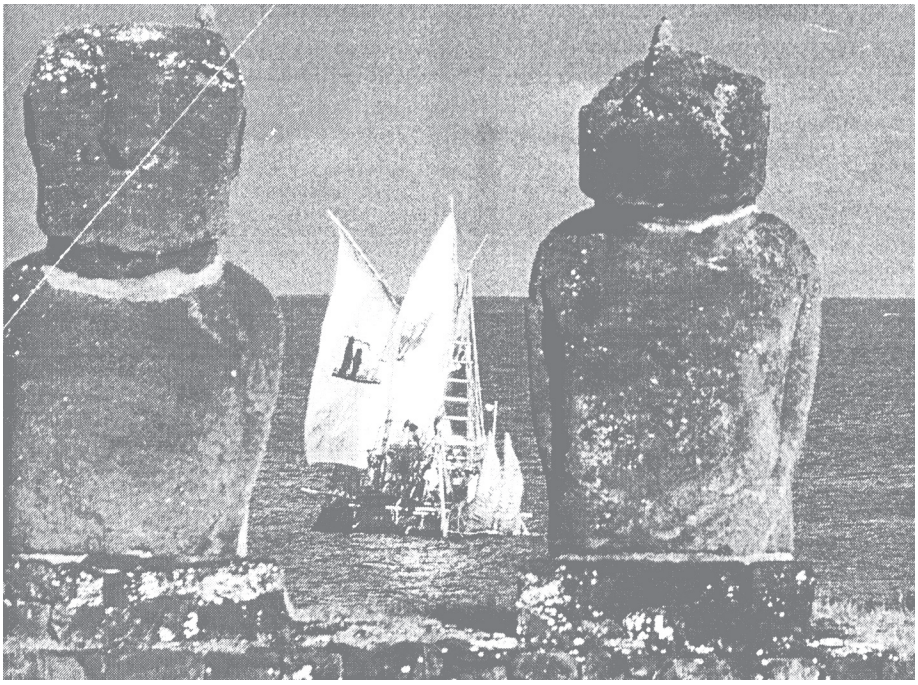
Renewable Energy: A Win-Win for Berkshire Towns

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) is offering incentives and prizes to inspire and reward households that enroll in New England GreenStart to support electricity from clean renewable sources. Berkshire residents who enroll in New England GreenStart by Earth Day, April 22, 2006, will receive a $10 certificate that can be redeemed at The Bookstore, Mountain Goat, Arcadian Shop, Fuchsia Home, Evviva Clothing, Berkshire Co-op Market, Ward's Nursery, Wild Oats Food Co-op, Sproutman, and Mama's Earth. These newly enrolled households will also be entered into a drawing for a "Spa Renewal Day" at Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires and other prizes donated by local businesses.

Towns also benefit when residents support renewable energy through National Grid. If 3 percent of a town's residents enroll by December 31, the town will earn a bonus payment of $50 per participating household. These funds can be used for a renewable energy project for the town. The town also earns funds for every dollar spent on GreenStart.

Monterey, Great Barrington, Mount Washington, Alford, and Egremont have already qualified for bonus payments and will receive an additional $25 per household if they maintain the 3 percent participation rate. Lenox, Stockbridge, Sheffield, and West Stockbridge are close to reaching 3 percent.

Households served by National Grid can enroll in New England GreenStart on-line at www.cetonline.org or www.greenstart.net. For more information about New England GreenStart, contact Raya Ariella at 1-800-238-1221, ext. 17, or visit http://www.cetonline.org.



Phil Buck's reed ship Varacocha II *arrives at Easter Island May 31, 2003.*

Explorer Phil Buck to Speak

Massachusetts native and explorer extraordinaire Phil Buck will give a presentation on some of his explorations and adventures at the Monterey Meetinghouse on Saturday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m.

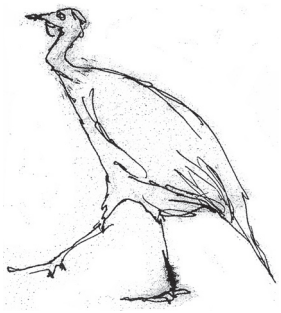
Phil has successfully led several expeditions throughout his twenty-year career as an explorer. In 2000 he led an international crew of eight aboard an ancient-style reed ship, the *Viracocha I,* 2,500 miles from Chile to Easter Island. The *Viracocha II* was built in 2002 and made its voyage from Vina del Mar, Chile, to Easter Island in 2003.

Past expeditions include:

- crossing the entire North American continent by canoe, following the route of Lewis and Clark;
- climbing Andean peaks in search of lost Inca artifacts;
- becoming the first person to climb the highest mountain in all 23 nations of the Americas.

Currently, Phil Buck and his team are constructing a reed ship for a voyage from Boston to Egypt's Nile River in 2008.

The free program will be followed by refreshments in the Meetinghouse social room, and is organized and funded by the Monterey Cultural Council. For more information, call Joe Baker at 413-528-9385.



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first star

there in the now twilight
in the clear sky of quick evening
in the rose golden aura of
our setting sun
in the chill minutes of early dark
in the still recognition of the
retreating field and wood
in its own snow bright singularity:
the first star
of the frost bit night
pointing the way
back homeward
to the aggressors!

— R. Zukowski

March on Washington

"May I help you hold your sign?"
"You were in Birmingham?"
"Oh, the dogs! The dogs!"

It was August twenty-eight,
nineteen sixty-three.
I was about to hear his dream.
The crowd had attended church services
and we were singing.

Such a mass of people that sunny day,
walking to present our job petition
to President Kennedy, who awaited us.
I'd thought I'd be terrified.
No crushing, however—no swearing.

Everyone dressed in happiness.
Gaiety, hope, purpose.
Awe at the daring.
Hope for the possibilities.
We will overcome!

—Nancy Adams

In Winter, Warmth

In winter, warmth is what we want and need;
its value rises with the bitter chill.
The potent force of weather we'll concede.

No longer is it sun for which we plead;
with meager substitutes its place we fill.
In winter, warmth is what we want and need.

Warm weather often makes our pains recede.
But now we must oppose with all our skill
the potent force of weather. We'll concede

that cold may cause our skin to crack and bleed,
that we can't bend the weather to our will.
In winter, warmth is what we want and need;

we urge each warming trend to pick up speed.
Our hopes for some respite are high, until
the potent force of weather we concede.

There are few wants on which we're all agreed.
The climate of each life is volatile.
Yet, winter warmth is something we all need.
The potent force of weather we'll concede.

— Ed Schur

Snowflakes

Snowflake
unique beauty
out of water
back to water melts
like mortals.

— A. O. Howell

Thursday Night Music at the Monterey General Store

Come to the Monterey General Store on these dark and cold January Thursday nights for music, warmth, good food, and more music. The music goes from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., with no cover charge. Light dinner is available from 6:00–7:30. For more information, call the store, 413-528-4437

January 5
Karl Finger

January 12
Mt Laurel Band: Joe Baker, Bonner McAllester, Don MacLean

January 19
Bruce Mandel

January 26
Dave Reed

Education Committee to Meet Jan. 23

The Monterey Education Committee will meet as scheduled January 23, the third Monday of the month, at 7 p.m. for the first few minutes of the scheduled Select Board meeting. Education surveys are available and circulating. All are welcome to participate.

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Monterey Library Notes

The Monterey Library is now HOT! Thanks to the cooperation of the Monterey General Store and the services of Adam Goodman at wispring.com we are connected to the Internet by satellite and with our new AirPort setup everyone is welcome to bring their laptops in, and, when the weather is better out, to download those multi-megabyte updates and programs that take too long on a dialup Internet connection.

The children's book discussion group now has fourteen 9-to 12-year-olds discussing books once a month at the library. Unfortunately we don't have room for anyone else to join at this point, but we hope to in the future. The children are currently reading *Storm-blast,* an ocean survival story, after having had a class in knots. The next discussion is January 9, where we will hand out the next book, *The Secret School,* by Avi, historical fiction that will surely make the readers appreciate the education they receive today.

Some of the New Books

Adult Fiction
The Constant Princess, Philippa Gregory
Card, D. L. Nelson
Camel Club, David Baldacci
People's Acts of Love, James Meeks
Predator, Patricia Cornwell
Veronica, Mary Gaitskill
"S" is for Silence, Sue Grafton
The Lighthouse, P. D. James
Get a Life, Nadine Gordimer
The Ambler Warning, Robert Ludlum

Adult Nonfiction
Between Two Worlds, Zainab Salbi
Ice: The Nature, the History and the Uses, Marian Gosnell
Imperial Grunts, Robert Kaplan
March of the Penguins, Luc Jacquet
Star Wars, Where Science Meets Imagination; Anthony Daniels

Children's
Boy Were We Wrong about Dinosaurs, Kathy Kudlinski
Penultimate Peril, Lemony Snicket
Secrets of a Civil War Submarine, Sally Walker
Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan
Drift House, Dale Peck
Flush, Carl Hiaasen
Liberty or Death, the American Revolution, Betsy Maestro
How to Be the Funniest Kid in the Whole Wide World, Jay Leno

Picture Books
Bad Baby, Ross MacDonald
Klondike Gold, Alice Provensen
Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies, Carolyn Crimi
Baby Bears Chairs, Jane Yolen

— Mark Makuc

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Knox Traversed Bidwell Land

In the year of the Declaration of Independence, the first Congregational minister to Township No. One, now Monterey, was 56 years old, widowed twice, married to his third wife, and the father of four children. He was also a patriot! Rev. Adonijah Bidwell, in 1776, may have supplied sustenance and rest to the 25-year-old bookseller Henry Knox, who had the preposterous idea of removing the Fort Ticonderoga guns and hauling them across the snow-laden land to Washington's colonial army fighting the British at Boston.

We know Bidwell was on the side of the revolution; we know he supplied beef to Washington's troops. Tradition tells us the young Colonel Knox traversed this land of Monterey on his way to Boston in the dead of winter. Bidwell's homestead and church marked the demographic center of settlement. The Royal Hemlock Trail on his acreage—still accessible for hiking—joined the main roads from Albany to Boston. Bidwell had the space in his comfortable colonial home and barns, and he had the generosity of spirit to have helped the troops.

Winter in the Berkshires was punishing in the 1770s, still under the influence of the Little Ice Age that began to descend over this land in the 1400s. Harsh winter winds destroyed the soldiers' meager tents, and they slept on open ground. "Soldiers froze to death standing watch," relates David McCullough in his best-selling account of that momentous year and title of his book, 1776.

In mid-January the British held Boston and controlled the port city. On January 14th, George Washington "wrote one of the most forlorn, despairing letters of his life," writes McCullough. "Few people know the predicament we are in," Washington wrote to Congress. He had no money, no powder, and some of his troops had given up and gone home with government-issued muskets. Only half of his troops were healthy enough to be considered fit for duty, and the British were on the verge of launching an offensive into the hinterland. McCullough writes that if Washington had known what he was getting into, "he would never have accepted the command."

The only hope was a January 18th dispatch from General Schuyler that Colonel Knox was indeed on the way with the guns from Ticonderoga. He had been gone two months, but his men's spirits were never broken despite "rough forest roads, freesing lakes, blizzards, thaws, mountain wilderness and repeated mishaps." From Lake George, not completely frozen over, Knox had gone to Albany and then traveled east "toward Boston across the Berkshire Mountains." It was in the depths of a January freeze that Knox's troops were trudging through Monterey.

Knox had forty-two sleds or sledges hauling fifty-eight French mortars and cannon—12-and 18-pounders and one giant brass 24-pounder—altogether weighing 120,000 pounds. "Snow in the Berkshires lay thick, exactly as needed, but the mountains, steep and tumbled and dissected by deep, narrow valleys, posed a challenge as formidable as any," wrote Knox in his diary. It was a miracle, he said, "that people with heavy loads should be able to get up and down such hills." Not one gun was lost.

Very few of the colonists in Monterey had ever seen a canon and news raced ahead of the lead sleds. It was a great curiosity! There are remnants of a sledge rotting in the woods on the Bidwell House property. No one knows its history. In another twenty-five years, it will be beyond recognition. But the many stonewalls that wind for miles around colonial pastures and garden plots are still intact and could tell a story.

The guns were taken off the sledges at Framingham—waiting for the commanding general's order to approach Dorchester Heights above Boston. Washington hoped, after meeting with his council of war, that a strike at Boston by American troops "at this critical juncture might put a final end to the war." Little did he know it would only be a beginning. Washington ordered an additional 2,000 Massachusetts militia to defend the nascent national goals. He also rounded up wagons, carts, and 800 oxen from the farmers to prepare for the move on Dorchester, which he decided would be on March 4th, the anniversary of the Boston Massacre.

Rev. Bidwell continued to supply money to cover the pay of local militia. The Bidwell House Museum preserves these memories of our local participation in the American Revolution. Visitors often ask the director of the museum to recommend a book on this period of history. Our response is the book that reimagines and recreates the past in exciting chapters: *1776* by David McCullough, Simon and Schuster, New York, 2005 (available at the Monterey Library).

— Martha Dailey

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
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Walking With Greenshanks

The rooster's name is Greenshanks. He crows at night when the moon is full and as he grows up he is beginning to chase the hens around. They don't like this and are reluctant to leave their perches in the morning to come down for breakfast, where Greenshanks is waiting for them.

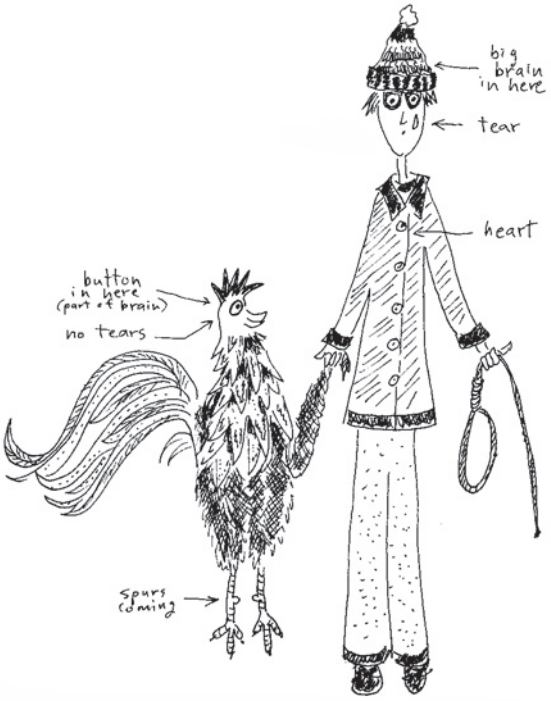
We have chickens because we like them and we eat eggs, but why do we have a rooster? Some people think there has to be a rooster on the scene in order for hens to lay, but this is not the case. Hens will lay without a rooster, but of course the eggs will not be fertile. If you were hoping for another generation of little chickies, you wouldn't get them without the participation of a rooster.

It would not have to be *your* rooster, though. You could, as we did, get your chickies through a mail-order catalogue, anytime you like. We got ours in late June, and we thought carefully about the rooster question. Experience had taught us that a rooster is almost always a creature of beauty, long glossy tail feathers and a ruff around his neck that would be the envy of any fairytale king. His famous voice evokes at once the timeless ancestral jungle and centuries of barnyard domesticity.

Economically, your rooster gobbles up at least as much protein as an egg-laying hen, so he is an extravagance. He will not help balance the books.

Personally, the rooster is a gamble. We've had easygoing gentlemanly roosters here and we've had the warriors, the ones that scurry after you beside the path and jump out with their spurs clacking. What do they think they are doing? You are the person who just filled the grain hopper.

There is probably not much real thought process involved when a rooster attacks. Something has pushed his button



and he has no choice. Back in his junglefowl incarnation he had to beat off other roosters to keep his wife and his territory. Now, all these generations later, that fighting gene persists. Sometimes it has been carefully managed and kept, in breeding fighting cocks, but in the case of Greenshanks, we think it has been a sleeper, a hitchhiker gene. We're not even sure, yet, how much we'll see of it.

Last week we saw Greenshanks' button pushed for the first time. He jumped up and spurred my arm with his developing knobs, not yet capable of doing damage. I was reaching down to give the flock a pan of cooked spelt grains, just a silly treat to make me feel less guilty about the chilly henhouse.

"Here you go," I cooed, and the hens scurried gratefully forward, loving me despite the lack of central heating in their shack.

Bang! Out of nowhere Greenshanks hit me, and then crowed his triumphant yodel. No one could buy *him* off with breakfast mush.

Maybe not. But remember I am the farmer. I have the awesome power of life and death around here, no jury, no appeal. If there are more attacks, Greenshanks is definitely Dead Rooster Walking. Now we eye each other from across the void. He knows his path, I am considering mine. He has a little rooster brain that lets him sleep at night except when the moon is full. I, on the other hand, have my huge and cumbersome farmer's brain. It has direct links to my farmer's heart, my human condition.

Who am I to judge a rooster, the voice of the jungle? I bought him, ordered him from the hatchery, fed and treasured him. Now he shows a little of his own path, his own direction in the universe, and I am ready to be his judge and executioner. I am Hangwoman Walking. We are walking together, Greenshanks and I.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Letter from College

Mentoring at Beeman Elementary School

Taking an afternoon off from college life once a week is somewhat refreshing for often overwhelmed students. The outing is to Beeman, a local Middlebury elementary school, where I and other Middlebury College students spend an hour a week mentoring young students. The children we mentor are often struggling with a challenging situation, personal or otherwise. Beeman Elementary welcomes the college student's participation, providing us with craft materials, snacks, and, most importantly, beaming excited children.

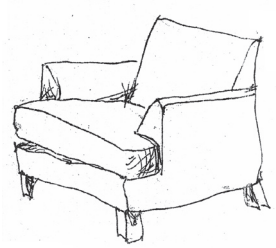
To be a kid again is almost impossible, but Beeman provides a way for college students to connect with the larger community and provides an older friend to a student who frequently just needs a little extra tender loving care. Each week we are greeted with a hug and a huge smile, then inevitably the snacking begins, and so does conversation. Among other things, we play board games such as Memory, which is pretty humbling because being next to those young minds makes me feel old. It's healing, or rather, liberating to be in this crowd of bubbling youth. Although Beeman is only a matter of minutes by car, worlds change and for many (not me really because I was home schooled until eighth grade) it's like a blast from the past.

Looking at where I am now and where I was when I was around eight years old, I see hardly any resemblance. How could someone who ran around in the woods almost all day end up where I am today? What did I think about when I was that age? I didn't have the same thoughts these young students have, but mine certainly weren't centered on my future. What was life like when we weren't thinking about our next move? Do you remember a time when you weren't thinking about grades in school, the future of a relationship, the college you wanted to go to most, the job you wanted, or the salary you needed to make ends meet? I'm only halfway through living out that list, and already I have days when it feels as if I don't embody much of the carefree farm girl of my past. She was, much like me, determined, curious and honest, but she was more innocent and perhaps more at peace.

Where I am today is not a bad place; in fact, it's enlightening in a whole new and fascinating way. Visiting Beeman and spending an hour revisiting the pleasures of childhood reminds me that I haven't lost that girl completely. Today I am thriving on a new kind of craft, but it's always reassuring for me to realize that people can reconnect with where they come from, and in doing so remember the importance that our past carries. This opportunity to rediscover some childhood moments was not something I ever glimpsed in my usual college life, but now it seems as routine as weekly reading, although certainly more fun.

College offers not just academics, a beautiful campus, good food, and bright inspired people, but also the elements of constructing a full diverse life. As I return to the college after my hour in the land of children's play, I feel as if I've glimpsed and reconnected with a buried part of my past. College growth is not solely about how one approaches a math problem, discusses the current world climate, or develops a thesis; it is also about learning who you are, and the potential you have. Beeman provides a respite and helps connect me to a new community where I know I am making a difference, not just in a child's life, but in my own as well. Sometimes you can best remember how far you've come by revisiting the world you left, perhaps not entirely, behind.

— Tarsi Dunlop



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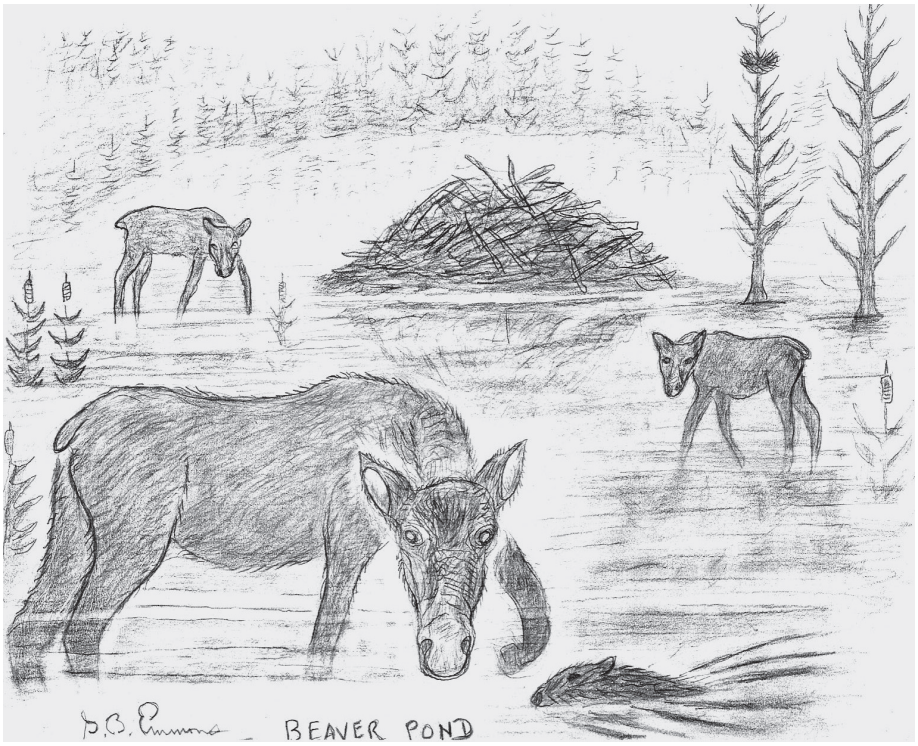
Year of the Moose & Beaver

When the new Chinese calendar year begins on January 29, it will be the year of the dog. Last year was their year of the rooster. My environmental forecast for Monterey in 2006 is that it may very well turn out to be the year of the moose and beaver. And both species can be found right here in River City. A few years ago two moose were seen at the first light of day calmly crossing Main Road, past the Post Office and the Town Hall, across the ball field, and into the woods along the Konkapot.

The Monterey Library has an outstanding book on each species, *Ecology and Management of the North American Moose,* compiled and edited by A. W. Franzman and C. C. Schwartz, and *The World of the Beaver* by Leonard Lee Rue, III. Both publications are extraordinarily informative, and after reading, it is reasonable to draw the illustration showing that both go together ... like birds of a feather. We see much more of beavers, especially when their dams break and flood our roads, but moose tracks are commonly found around the edges of our beaver ponds, when they forage for aquatic plants; as well as being strong swimmers, they are able to dunk their heads under water for up to a minute at a time.

As of this writing on the first day of winter, the moose cow, like the whitetail doe, was bred during the rutting season last fall. If the coming winter is mild and will



support the development of two embryos, the mature cow, like the doe, will give birth to two calves in late April or early May. With a foot of snow already on the ground, moose and deer will be penned up under thick conifer canopy if severe conditions continue. Most of our moose sightings are along the eastern expanse of woodland borders, which also have our largest beaver ponds.

The largest beaver pond I have seen is about a mile down an abandoned logging road that starts out from the intersection of Hupi Road and Route 23, quite near the entrance to the trailhead for Bob's Way; it leads to an old farmstead cellar and barn foundation. The beaver dam itself is almost an eighth of a mile long, backing up a flooded woodland to a pond almost twice as large as Brewer Pond. Now it sleeps under thick thermal layers of ice and snow, which also protect the inhabitants of the several beaver lodges from predators that can get to them on the frozen surface. January is the breeding season of beavers, and each fertile female will insure an increased population next spring.

In addition to being the Chinese New Year, January 29th is also the date of a new moon, called by Algonquin Indians the Snow Blinder Moon, which will be followed in March by the Sap Moon. When spring does finally arrive, I believe both moose and beaver will share a higher profile than in, recent years.

Happy New Year!

— George Emmons

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Reflections on Myanmar

I recently returned home from a two-week trip to Burma (called Myanmar now by its present government) and a two-day hop to Cambodia in November. Before I left I was beset with the question, "Why are you going there?" "Why not?" would spring to my lips; I really didn't understand the full implications of the questions. Many of the people who asked didn't understand the implications either. Most said, "Where is Burma, anyway?"

I had read an article or two that our government was urging us not to go in light of the United States ban of goods from Myanmar and the house arrest of their elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. I began reading in depth, anything I could find on this country, from before the colonial era to the present repressive regime. I realized that certainly this was a problematic venture, even an ethical concern. I wondered how Buddism, the religion of 95 percent of the population, intersected with the political power structure. But I was traveling with my favorite yoga people from Feathered Pipe Ranch in Montana and would be studying with Rodney Yee, a teacher skilled in making sense of many things besides yoga asanas. And it is thanks to Rodney's insights and the generosity of spirit of my traveling companions that I was able to begin to understand the complexities.

There is no doubt that Myanmar is beautiful. It truly is a golden country. The myriad stupas and temples gleam in the sunlight. A large slum in Yangon (formerly Rangoon) was "moved" out of the route of the tourist traffic. The faces of the people are exquisite; their demeanor is quiet and courteous. No one talks about the lack of freedom in publishing, in education, and even in private conversation. Trying to get the unspoken reality from our carefully programmed tour guide became a game for me. One day he was forced to admit that if the bus didn't buy its gas on the black market, we would not go far on the two liters a day allowed each vehicle.

Clearly the present military dictatorship wants tourists who bring the hard cash that sharply contrasts with their inflated currency. I questioned at first why we were told to only exchange fifty American dollars for Kyats. The real money exchange is done on the black market, where American dollars fetch far more than the official exchange rate. When the ubiquitous souvenir vendors make their first sale of the day, they thank the spirits by tapping their goods with dollars and intoning, "Lucky Money, Lucky Money." I was especially grateful that my dollars went to these vendors after I noticed the sign on our fancy hotel in Yangon proclaiming the owner as one of the prominent generals running the government. I can only imagine what the tourist industry is doing for them.

The real economy is carried in the border regions rife with trade in gems, drugs, and arms. This money is responsible for the construction for the FairyLand floating resort that our group so loved on Inle Lake. On the other hand, the people who work there have college degrees, commute to work in the back of a truck, bring their lunch, work twelve hours a day, six days a week, and make about $30 a month. Others not so fortunate commute in trucks to do manual labor or to clear minefields. The independence-minded tribes on the borders of Myanmar have been destroyed.

Even if one accepted the façade created for the visitor, the poverty and low standard of living are blatant. Worse than not ever getting a straight answer to a question, we saw a woman being beaten. Some temples displayed pictures of military generals with their arms around monks. Often we would go to our yoga class disturbed. What do we do in the face of such overwhelming problems? What do those beautiful people do? Rodney's words were helpful: Did you see the monk climbing the mountain to the temple? How he placed each foot carefully, how he took each step with full mindfulness? Perhaps we can only sit quietly and find peace and justice within ourselves.

— Esther Heffernan

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in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

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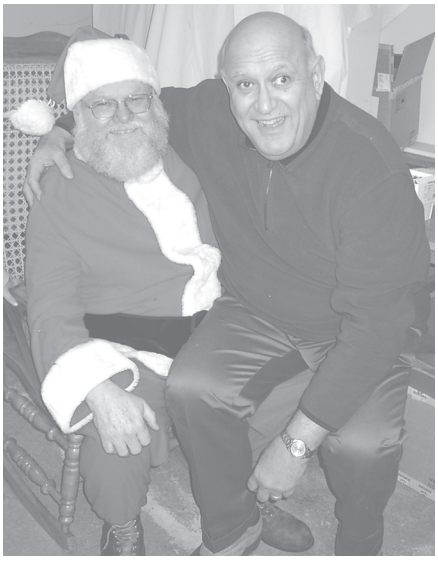

Scenes from the Christmas party: Santa with Alisa Puntin (l), Evan Sylbert (above), and Mike Storch. (Photos courtesy Michael Storch and Jon Sylbert.)

ॐ

Dual Homeowners Corner

The snow is getting deeper. The road to Lake Buel is covered with snow and ice and the road down to our cottage is no longer visible. High boots, warm jackets, hats with earmuffs, and many layers of clothing are necessary to stay warm and dry. The landscape is beautiful and bright in its whiteness, and the sunshine reflecting on the trees and rooftops causes them to sparkle. We are able to walk to our house by the lakeside while our car remains next to the road.

Ice-skating on the lake is an enticing prospect even though we hear a symphony of crackling sounds produced by the ice. A sleigh ride down the hill onto the lake is fun for the young kids, riskier for parents and grandparents. Becoming involved with the winter environment and taking advantage of the opportunities that become available enriches our lives. We learn and grow with each experience, and our comfort in the Berkshires is enhanced each time we do something new, as well as when we do what we did last year.

It is always the right season to be in the Berkshires. We share the winter lakeside with wild turkeys, deer, cackling black birds, and, once, with a black bear and her cubs. The brave country mice tunnel under the crust of the snow and find a way into the cottages. Winter months bring quiet to the lake, a different experience from the spring and summer.

Early in the morning the bright sun glistens on the ice-covered lake; seductive as it might be, it still requires mufflers, hats, and layers of clothing. A special treat has always been cross-country skiing across the lake. To glide across the lake in wintertime is always a thrill and equals a ride in the canoe in the summer.

— Barbara Haver

CATA Art Show, Films at Berkshire Museum

Community Access to the Arts (CATA) presents *I Am A Part of Art,* an art show featuring work from CATA's artists with disabilities, opening February 5th at the Berkshire Museum, from 2–4 pm. The exhibit will begin with a screening of CATA films *Too Much to Stop,* directed by John Whalan of Black Ice Entertainment, and *Rhythm and Hues,* produced by Whalan and directed by filmmaker Mati Kiin**,** followed by a reception. The exhibit will feature work created through CATA's programs from a variety of settings, including AdLib, Blue Q, Redfield House, and Riverbrook Residence.

I Am A Part of Art will be on display at the Berkshire Museum through February 26. Admission is free. For information, please call 413-528-5485 or visit www.communityaccesstotheARTS.org.

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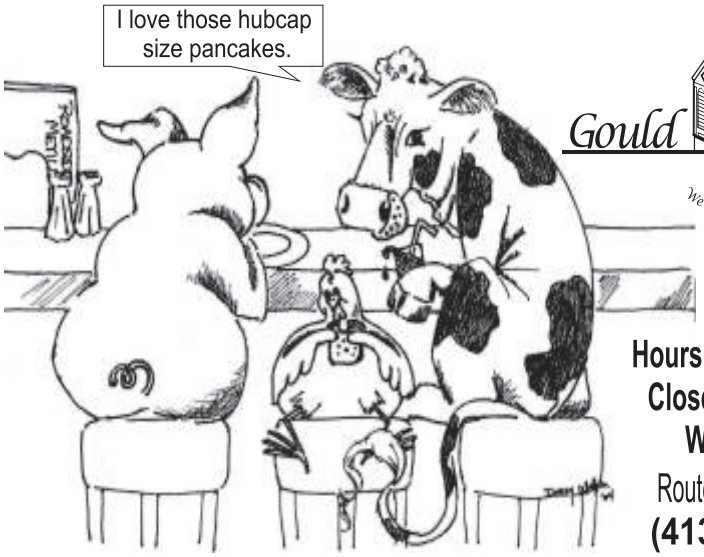

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Every Thursday in January: Music night at the General Store. Various artists. Starts at 7 p.m. See p. 12.

Monday, January 2: Town Offices, closed.

Tuesday, January 3: Select Board meeting 8:30 a.m.-noon, Town Hall.

Tuesday, January 10: Knitting Circle meets at the General Store, 6 p.m. See p. 9.

Wednesday, January 11: Community Potluck, 6 p.m., at the Monterey Meetinghouse. Talk by Martha Dailey on Colonial Women. See p.7.

Thursday, January 12: Free blood pressure clinic, 2–3 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Saturday, January 14: Full Moon.

Monday, January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Town Offices closed.

Friday, January 20: Informational meeting for the special town meeting, 7 p.m. at Town Hall. See p. 3.

Saturday, January 21:

Wind Power forum, 1 p.m. at the Monterey Meetinghouse. See p. 8.

Exciting evening with explorer Phil Buck at the Monterey Meetinghouse at 7:30 p.m. See p. 10.

Monday, January 23:

Select Board's monthly evening meeting, 7 p.m., Town Offices.

Monterey Education Committee will meet during first part of Select Board meeting. All welcome. See p. 12.

Tuesday, January 24: Open meeting of the Agricultural Commission, 7 p.m. at Town Hall. See p. 8.

Friday, January 27: Special Town Meeting, 7 p.m., at the firehouse. See p. 3.

Saturday, January 28: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Paul Rosenberg. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Information 528-9385.

Monday, January 30: Public hearing at Select Board meeting for the change in the Tree Warden's position from elected to appointed.

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Emily Sottile Receives Masters

Welcome home and congratulations to Emily Sottile!

Emily has returned home to Monterey from Edinburgh Scotland, where she received her Masters degree in History of Art. Emily graduated with honors and distinction from the University of Edinburgh. Her undergraduate degree (which was also in History of Art) was from Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee. During her studies at Rhodes, Emily studied abroad at Oxford University. Many thanks to all of our friends in the community who have continually sent their love and best wishes to Emily while she was away. Special thanks to the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship for support and generosity.

The Observer
November 26–December 25

High temp. (11/30)	58°
Low temp. (12/14)	-11°
Avg. high temp.	31.8°
Avg. low temp.	15.9°
Avg. temp.	23.9°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	4.22 in.
Snowfall	24.2 in.
Precipitation occurred on 21 days.	
Total snowfall for season	32.4 in.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions:

JoAnn Elam
Alan & Kathryn Klingenstein
Herbert Coyne
Ken & Laurel Kahn
John Martin & Jill Lawrence
Alan & Jane Salamon

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Asst. Editor ..... Glynis Oliver
Reporters .....Laurily Epstein
..... George Emmons
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 10, 15; George Emmons, p. 16;
Bonner McAllester, p. 14; Glynis Oliver, pp. 5, 6, 19.

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